



State of Arizona

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Governor Jan Brewer Announces New Deputy Policy Director, Additional Staff Changes

PHOENIX – Governor Jan Brewer today named Page Gonzales the new Deputy Policy Director for the Governor's Office. Ms. Gonzales has been on-staff since 2009 as Policy Advisor for Local Government and Transportation issues. She will, in her new role, continue to oversee policy development in these areas.

"Page is well-known and well-liked in Capitol circles, and has been a strong part of my team during the past two years as a policy advisor for local government and transportation," said Governor Brewer. "Her expertise in these areas and vast knowledge of legislative affairs and governmental issues make her a strong choice for Deputy Director of Policy."

Ms. Gonzales will replace Beth Kohler Lazare, who is leaving the Governor's Office to become Deputy Director of AHCCCS. Prior to serving as Deputy Policy Director, Ms. Lazare had been the Governor's lead Policy Advisor for Health and Human Services.

"I am grateful for the commitment and expertise that Beth dedicated to our team during her time as Deputy Policy Director," said Governor Brewer. "Her experience and qualifications in health care and human services issues will serve her well in her new role at AHCCCS, and I wish her the best."

Replacing Ms. Lazare as the Governor's new Health Policy Advisor is Don Hughes. Mr. Hughes has more than three decades of experience in state government and health care policy. He currently serves as Special Advisor to the Governor for Health Care Innovation, and is Executive Director of the Arizona Health Insurance Exchange. Mr. Hughes will retain both of these roles as he takes on his new assignment as Health Policy Advisor.

"Don has been a strong addition to the Governor's Office, and is a natural fit as Health Policy Advisor," said Governor Brewer. "Don's knowledge and experience in matters of health care and the health insurance industry will continue to be an asset to my administration."

Lastly, Governor Brewer has named Cassandra Larsen the new Policy Advisor for Human Services. Ms. Larsen has served as the Director of the Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families since 2009. She will continue to serve in that role as she adds additional responsibilities as Human Services Policy Advisor.

Formerly the Chief of Staff for the Arizona Department of Education and Executive Director of the State Board for Charter Schools, Ms. Larsen has a strong background in education management. Just prior to joining Governor Brewer's staff in April 2009, she was the Director of the Arizona Prevention Resource Center.

"With her extensive background in education, community and youth issues, Ms. Larsen is the clear choice for the role of Human Services Policy Advisor," said Governor Brewer. "I am honored to have Ms. Larsen serve as my new Policy Advisor for Human Services."

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